



WAKEFIELD

Middlesex County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Wakefield is situated in Middlesex County in eastern Massachusetts, approximately ten miles north of the City of Boston. It is bordered on the north by Reading and Lynnfield, on the west by parts of Reading and Stoneham, on the south by Melrose and on the east by Saugus and Lynnfield again.

Originally settled in 1639, this area was known as the First or South Parish of Reading until the year 1812 at which time it was incorporated as the Town of South Reading. It remained as South Reading until 1868 when the name was changed to Wakefield in honor of one of its leading citizens, Cyrus Wakefield, who built the first rattan factory in the world.

Today, Wakefield is a desirable suburban residential community governed by a public spirited, well-informed citizenry interested in maintaining both the natural beauty of the town and in providing a high quality of services and facilities at a level adequate to the needs of health and safety. The town has diversification of industry and employment and the level of wages and

employment is high. Manufacturing is the largest source of employment; next in importance finance, insurance and real estate followed by the wholesale and retail trade industry. The Central Business District along Main Street consists of banks, public buildings, specialty shops, and professional offices. Town residents confidently assert that Wakefield is a well managed community.

Adding to the town's attractiveness are its two lakes: Crystal Lake, a water supply source, and Lake Quannapowitt, a center for water sports. Lake Quannapowitt provides year-round recreational opportunities; swimming, boating and fishing in the summer and ice fishing, ice boating, hockey and ice skating in the winter. This three mile lake is a popular area for jogging and walking.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Stoneham and Reading on the west, Melrose on the south, Saugus on the east, and Lynnfield on the north. Wakefield is 10 miles north of Boston; 16 miles south of Lawrence; 100 miles south of Portland, Maine; and 230 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 7.91 sq. miles

Land Area: 7.47 sq. miles

Population: 24,825

Density: 3,323 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Reading Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.5°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.0°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.6"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Reading, Boston North

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (781) 246-6390

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Executive Secretary

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1868

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

| Number | % |
|--------|---|
|--------|---|

Total Registered 14,388

Democrats 5,570 38.7 % Republicans 2,170 15.1 % Other parties 2 0.0 % Unenrolled Voters 6,646 46.2 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Wakefield town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

| Subject | Number | Percent | Subject | Number | Percent |
|---|--------|---------|--|--------|---------|
| Total population..... | 24,804 | 100.0 | HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE | | |
| SEX AND AGE | | | Total population..... | 24,804 | 100.0 |
| Male..... | 11,762 | 47.4 | Hispanic or Latino (of any race)..... | 204 | 0.8 |
| Female..... | 13,042 | 52.6 | Mexican..... | 23 | 0.1 |
| Under 5 years..... | 1,593 | 6.4 | Puerto Rican..... | 58 | 0.2 |
| 5 to 9 years..... | 1,513 | 6.1 | Cuban..... | 7 | - |
| 10 to 14 years..... | 1,578 | 6.4 | Other Hispanic or Latino..... | 116 | 0.5 |
| 15 to 19 years..... | 1,347 | 5.4 | Not Hispanic or Latino..... | 24,600 | 99.2 |
| 20 to 24 years..... | 1,009 | 4.1 | White alone..... | 23,902 | 96.4 |
| 25 to 34 years..... | 3,628 | 14.6 | RELATIONSHIP | | |
| 35 to 44 years..... | 4,473 | 18.0 | Total population..... | 24,804 | 100.0 |
| 45 to 54 years..... | 3,746 | 15.1 | In households..... | 24,561 | 99.0 |
| 55 to 59 years..... | 1,208 | 4.9 | Householder..... | 9,747 | 39.3 |
| 60 to 64 years..... | 960 | 3.9 | Spouse..... | 5,368 | 21.6 |
| 65 to 74 years..... | 1,770 | 7.1 | Child..... | 7,511 | 30.3 |
| 75 to 84 years..... | 1,447 | 5.8 | Own child under 18 years..... | 5,320 | 21.4 |
| 85 years and over..... | 532 | 2.1 | Other relatives..... | 947 | 3.8 |
| Median age (years)..... | 38.9 | (X) | Under 18 years..... | 227 | 0.9 |
| 18 years and over..... | 19,197 | 77.4 | Nonrelatives..... | 988 | 4.0 |
| Male..... | 8,976 | 36.2 | Unmarried partner..... | 407 | 1.6 |
| Female..... | 10,221 | 41.2 | In group quarters..... | 243 | 1.0 |
| 21 years and over..... | 18,578 | 74.9 | Institutionalized population..... | 213 | 0.9 |
| 62 years and over..... | 4,292 | 17.3 | Noninstitutionalized population..... | 30 | 0.1 |
| 65 years and over..... | 3,749 | 15.1 | HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE | | |
| Male..... | 1,419 | 5.7 | Total households..... | 9,747 | 100.0 |
| Female..... | 2,330 | 9.4 | Family households (families)..... | 6,604 | 67.8 |
| RACE | | | With own children under 18 years..... | 2,942 | 30.2 |
| One race..... | 24,580 | 99.1 | Married-couple family..... | 5,368 | 55.1 |
| White..... | 24,045 | 96.9 | With own children under 18 years..... | 2,455 | 25.2 |
| Black or African American..... | 111 | 0.4 | Female householder, no husband present..... | 947 | 9.7 |
| American Indian and Alaska Native..... | 19 | 0.1 | With own children under 18 years..... | 384 | 3.9 |
| Asian..... | 354 | 1.4 | Nonfamily households..... | 3,143 | 32.2 |
| Asian Indian..... | 77 | 0.3 | Householder living alone..... | 2,575 | 26.4 |
| Chinese..... | 184 | 0.7 | Householder 65 years and over..... | 1,030 | 10.6 |
| Filipino..... | 20 | 0.1 | Households with individuals under 18 years..... | 3,103 | 31.8 |
| Japanese..... | 7 | - | Households with individuals 65 years and over..... | 2,623 | 26.9 |
| Korean..... | 44 | 0.2 | Average household size..... | 2.52 | (X) |
| Vietnamese..... | 8 | - | Average family size..... | 3.09 | (X) |
| Other Asian ¹ | 14 | 0.1 | HOUSING OCCUPANCY | | |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander..... | 2 | - | Total housing units..... | 9,937 | 100.0 |
| Native Hawaiian..... | - | - | Occupied housing units..... | 9,747 | 98.1 |
| Guamanian or Chamorro..... | - | - | Vacant housing units..... | 190 | 1.9 |
| Samoan..... | - | - | For seasonal, recreational, or | | |
| Other Pacific Islander ² | 2 | - | occasional use..... | 23 | 0.2 |
| Some other race..... | 49 | 0.2 | Homeowner vacancy rate (percent)..... | 0.4 | (X) |
| Two or more races..... | 224 | 0.9 | Rental vacancy rate (percent)..... | 1.8 | (X) |
| Race alone or in combination with one | | | HOUSING TENURE | | |
| or more other races: ³ | | | Occupied housing units..... | 9,747 | 100.0 |
| White..... | 24,246 | 97.8 | Owner-occupied housing units..... | 7,019 | 72.0 |
| Black or African American..... | 172 | 0.7 | Renter-occupied housing units..... | 2,728 | 28.0 |
| American Indian and Alaska Native..... | 76 | 0.3 | Average household size of owner-occupied units..... | 2.76 | (X) |
| Asian..... | 424 | 1.7 | Average household size of renter-occupied units..... | 1.89 | (X) |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander..... | 4 | - | | | |
| Some other race..... | 122 | 0.5 | | | |

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 157

Conventional Federal: 40

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 7

Federal (Section 8): 184



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Wakefield is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 128 and 129. State Route 128, the inner belt around Boston, intersects with Interstate 93 in the neighboring town of Reading.

Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is available from Wakefield (travel time 22-25 min.; 117 MBTA parking spaces) and Greenwood (travel time 19-22 min.; 6 spaces). The Springfield Terminal Railway offers freight service to Wakefield. Contact number: (508) 663-1073

Bus

Wakefield is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). The MBTA provides fixed route service to neighboring communities and to Oak Grove Station on the Orange Line.

Other

L.G. Hanscom Field, a joint civil-military airport, is located in Bedford. A Reliever Airport with Commercial Service (CR), it has a 5,106' asphalt runway and a 7,001' concrete and asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

(American Association of Museums)

Wakefield Historical Society

American Civic Center

467 Main Street

(781) 245-0549

MUSEUMS

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Greenview Manor Nursing Home

Greenwood Nursing Home

Kirkwood Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

Elizabeth E Boit Home

Oosterman's Rest Home

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.